

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 01132 210730Z

43

ACTION SS-25

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R 210448Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8577
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 1132

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, TW, US

SUBJECT: ROC PARTICIPATION IN THE U.S. BICENTENNIAL: THE
MOON MONUMENT

REF: (A) 75 TAIPEI 0672, (B) 74 TAIPEI 6552

1. PLANS TO ERECT A 250-FOOT LUNAR LANDING MONUMENT IN THE U.S. IN HONOR OF THE U.S. BICENTENNIAL (SEE REFTELS) HAVE AGAIN SURFACED IN THE LOCAL PRESS. THE PROJECT IS BEING PLANNED BY THE SINO-AMERICAN CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION AND SPONSORED BY A CHINESE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SELENE MONUMENT. THE 52 BOARD MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE INCLUDE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, BUSINESS LEADERS, AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS REPRESENTATIVES.

2. RECENT PRESS REPORTS ON THE PROJECT CONTAIN VARYING ACCOUNTS OF WHERE THE MONUMENT WILL BE LOCATED. ACCORDING TO ONE ACCOUNT, THE MONUMENT WILL BE LOCATED AT THE HOUSTON SPACE CENTER; ANOTHER ACCOUNT CLAIMED THAT THE CITIES OF HOUSTON AND HUNTSVILLE HAVE APPROACHED THE COMMITTEE TO REQUEST THAT THE MONUMENT BE ERECTED IN THOSE CITIES. YET ANOTHER ACCOUNT SUGGESTS DALLAS AS A POSSIBILITY.

3. ALTHOUGH THE COMMITTEE HAS YET TO LAUNCH ITS FUND-RAISING
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CAMPAIGN, THE GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY, ACCORDING TO THE

PRESS, IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 4, 1976.

4. COMMENT: AS NOTED IN EARLIER CABLES, THIS PROJECT WOULD APPEAR TO FALL WITHIN THE GUIDELINES FOR ROC PARTICIPATION IN U.S. BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES UNLESS IT IS BUILT AT A USG FACILITY, SUCH AS THE HOUSTON SPACE CENTER. THE EMBASSY HAS ASKED MOFA TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE PROJECT AND WILL REPORT FURTHER AS APPROPRIATE.

POPPL

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